

## ***PRESS RELEASE***

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### **TYLER COUNTY INSURANCE AGENT PLEADS GUILTY TO MULTIPLE CHARGES OF INSURANCE FRAUD**

**CHARLESTON, WV** – West Virginia Insurance Commissioner, Jane L. Cline, announced today that longtime insurance agent Bennie H. Kile Jr. of the Kile Insurance Agency pleaded guilty to four (4) felony counts of insurance fraud.

Kile admitted to taking money from customers for promised insurance policies and then failing to provide those policies. Kile also admitted to forging a customer's signature on an insurance application form.

"Fraud is a crime that saturates every type of insurance and makes victims of all consumers by inflating premiums and increasing the cost of buying goods and services," Cline said. "We are committed to reducing insurance fraud; a crime that costs consumers nationwide billions of dollars each year."

Kile, of Sistersville in Tyler County, was indicted March 13, 2006 by a Tyler County Grand Jury. He pleaded guilty to three (3) felony counts of conducting a fraudulent scheme and one (1) felony county of forgery. The fraudulent scheme covers multiple acts and victims.

The Insurance Commission's Fraud Unit conducted the investigation in cooperation with the Tyler County Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the West Virginia State Police.

Kile was sentenced July 27, 2006 to one (1) to ten (10) years in prison on each felony count; however, the sentence was suspended and Kile was ordered to serve one year home confinement, three hundred (300) hours of community service and pay restitution to all victims. The restitution is in excess of \$21,000.

Anyone with information relating to a suspected case insurance fraud is urged to call, toll-free, 800-779-6853.